THE RYDMAN MEETING HELD.

Much Speaking and Long Petition To the First Presidency.

NORDBERG WAS VEHEMENT.

Made a Plea for "Pure Swedish," but Uses Bad Swedish in His Arguments—The Other Speakers.

The Grand theater was well filled yesterday afternoon on the occasion of the holding of the much advertised meeting called in the interest of Editor Otto Rydman, who is seeking to override the action of the Twelfth ward Bishopric and the High Council of the Salt Lake Stake of Zion in deciding against him in the controversy he has been waging of late. The meeting was decidedly mixed as to its personnel. Among those present were Swedes, Finns from the Murray smelters, English and Americans. Not a few of the Swedish were Lutherans, while some had been members of the Church but had lost their membership. It is a fact also that some good Latter-day Saints were at the meeting though most of them admitted that their interest did not extend beyond the point of curiosity. It transpired that very many of those who signed the petition to the First Presidency did so under a misapprehension. There was considerable amusement at the expense of H. K. Nordberg, who has been clamoring vociferously for "pure Swedish" when that language is spoken. He spoke Swedish himself yesterday. But it was a notable fact that it was not "pure." On the contrary it was bad—decidedly bad, both as to grammar and manner of expression. Pure Swedish is doubtless a good thing but Mr. Nordberg is not a good advocate of it.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Present on the stage were, among others: O. Rydman, K. H. Nordberg, Hedman, Jr., Edwin Hedman, A. Mortenson Liljeblad, John Larson, Victor Anderson, Z. Monson, Martin Nordberg, J. R. Edholm, Nils Nilson, Rienhold Sandberg, Mr. Skonberg, Theodor Janson, Aug Carlson, C. Cederstrom, J. E. Hallbom, Jakob Broman, Mr. Lindeberg, O. Hillstrom, Oskar Larson, O. M. Rosell, C. S. Baker and John B. Sellstrain.

K. H. Nordberg called the meeting to order nad presented Mr. Hedman, Jr., as chairman. Mr. Nordberg said: "If I am an apostate how or why was it that I was accused or taken notice of in the Twelfth ward Bishop's court? And how could the High Council of Cache Stake excommunicate me in 1897 when I have been a member of the Twenty-second ward of Salt Lake Stake since 1890?" These questions were asked with great vehemence.

A song was sung and prayer was offered by J. R. Edholm. He asked for the Holy Spirit to guide the proceedings.

NORDBERG'S HOT TALK.

K. H. Nordberg said that some were too cowardly to go before their brethren to claim their rights, but those present were not so. He reviewed the situation, and read from the New Testament about the "Great Supper," and as everybody was invited to attend that feast, so good and bad, he said, have joined tonight for a united purpose, to demand our rights. If rumor is true this man (evidently referring to a well known Scandinavian) ought to be behind locks and bars, and now he wields his authority against our rights. He read from Apostle Cowley's work about liberty. We have been robbed, he said, of our rights, right along and particularly in the closing of the Fourteenth ward meeting house. He read from I Corinthians, 14, about language. He denied that he had broken any law. He referred again in very insinuating terms to the same person before denounced as a "low criminal." Rydman must not hang for the Swedes, because we all stand by him. He said that according to Mathew 5: 22, Brother F. S. Fernstrom was liable to "hell fire," for his utterances about the Swedish Saints. Then he read a statement by the temporary watchman of the Tabernacle, that Brother L. Dalquist was thrown out from said building. In each case two or three persons stood up as alleged eye witnesses. He again called upon good and bad to assist in denouncing the decision of Bishop Clawson. He criticised the proceedings as illegal, and related the story of Susanna as an illustration, and said the same shall happen to the false accusers in this case, and "we shall see to it, that Rydman shall not have to bow to this ungodly judgment." "I should feel insulted," he added, "if you did not choose me to bring this case before the First Presidency." He further censured in violent terms the proceedings of the High Council, but found some excuse in the fact that that body had nothing but the imperfect minutes from the Bishop's trial to go by. A good shepherd, said the speaker, will search for the lost sheep, but Brother Cannon had figuratively kicked at and actually insulted Brother Rydman before the Council. He affirmed that he wrote the letter published in the "News" to the High Council of Cache Stake, and that he stood for its contents yet. He read from Apostle Cowley's work President Lorenzo Snow's defence before the court in Ogden, and said that that was his position and he opposed the discontinuance of polygamy. He had defended that principle before the world for seven years, and would never admit that its practice should cease.

That, he said, was the reason for his strained relations with the authorities in Cache. But as he, in 1890, was received in the Twenty-second ward upon a recommend from Cache, he did not think it possible that he could be excommunicated in the latter place in 1897.

SOLUTION OF DIFFICULTY.

August Carlson of Ogden said that misunderstandings of the worst kind seems to prevail, but hoped for a good solution of the difficulty, as many of newly arriving Saints are withering away for lack of spiritual nourishment in their own language. And many, have been driven away entirely by this "damned Scandinavianism," and many have sought consolation with the Lutheran ministers. He denounced those that had warned against the movement afoot, and had no doubt that the First Presidency would set things aright. The chairman then read the petition to the First Presidency.

PETITION TO FIRST PRESIDENCY.

To the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

Brethren—We, the undersigned, Swedish speaking members of the Church, and Swedes in general, who have come to Zion for the Gospel's sake, hereby make the following representation, which we respectfully ask you to carefully consider:

We embraced the gospel in our fatherland, Sweden, and came to Zion in the hope of learning more of the ways of the Lord, and in the belief that we here, according to our needs, should be given teachers speaking our own language; but we found ourselves disappointed in our hopes, inasmuch as the so-called Scandinavian meetings did not in any way fulfill our expectation; for instead of having the privilege of taking part in religious services in the only language we then as yet understood, we found ourselves obliged either to be contented with what little we could conceive of the Danish-Norwegian language, or else entirely lose the edification we expected to receive at the meetings of the Saints in Zion.

The Swedish Saints in Zion, have, for a long time, as far back as 30 years, had the desire of being permitted to have Swedish meetings, in order to worship God in their own tongue. But our cause has been misrepresented and as a consequence thereof misunderstood, until it has caused very much offense and sorrow, especially among the older Swedish immigrants, for whom it has been hard enough to acquire an understanding of the English language, without also finding themselves obliged to acquire an understanding of the Danish-Norwegian language, for the acquirement of which there can be no reasonable necessity to them in this city. In our Swedish paper, the Utah Korrespondenten, which is published by Brother Otto Rydman, there have, during the last few years, appeared articles and letters from different places, concerning our Swedish cause, for the explanation and welfare of which we know that Brother Ryman has been working honestly and sincerely. In spite of this fact he has been attacked as though he had been working against the Priesthood, and denounced as an apostate by such, who, for political or other reasons, are trying with all their might to maintain the strife-fostering Scandinavianism here in Zion and it has gone so far that all those who have exhibited their sympathies for the righteous cause of the Swedes have been called "apostates," "bad spirits," etc. These and other attacks against us Swedes, Brother Rydman has published in his paper, according to our reports and our wishes. For this he has, before the bishop's court in the Twelfth ward, been accused and pronounced guilty of un-Christianlike conduct and sentenced to sign a confession of such a nature that every feeling of honor and manhood must rise against it.

We have learned to know Brother Rydman, to some extent personally and to some extent through his paper, and we know that his character is irreproachable, and we unanimously express our sympathies for him in the persecution which he has suffered. We consider that the judgment pronounced against Brother Rydman is unjust, inasmuch as his accusers are guilty of that for which he was sentenced, and we declare that the judgment pronounced against Brother Rydman is, at the same time, a judgment against all honest-minded Swedes in Zion. His cause is our cause. His wishes are also the wishes of the great majority of the Swedish people in Zion, that they may be united and have religious meetings in their own tongue.

We, therefore, ask in sincerity and humbleness that you will examine and take under advisement this whole matter, which is of the greatest importance to the Swedish members of the Church in all Zion, and grant that we may have Swedish meetings, and that brethren who speak in our language and understand our wishes be appointed to preside over these meetings.

Hoping that this representation and prayer will receive your approval and support, and thereby bring satisfaction and happiness to many sincere hearts, we ask the blessings of our heavenly Father over you and all who work for righteousness. And we will ever pray.

It was stated that the petition had 1,366 signatures and the name lists were again circulated for affixing of signatures. Contributions were collected to defray the expense of renting the building.

RYDMAN SPEAKS.

Otto Rydman was the next speaker. He was pleased that all had not been scared away from attending this meeting. He reviewed his case and said he saw his way clear for the future as he was satisfied with his course in the past. He had been disposed to shirk his duty when he had considered the obstacles in his road, but now he felt that he was a chosen instrument in the hands of the Lord to help to secure right and righteousness upon the earth. The Priesthood is abused among us, as it was in the days of Jesus when he said, "Woe unto you who lade men with burdens grievous to be borne." Luke 11: 46. If they had tried eight or ten years ago to crush me and my paper out, they might have succeeded, but now—never! He applied the words of John: "O generation of vipers," to the brethren in authority. He likened himself to Jesus for as he, said the speaker, spoke against the Jewish Priesthood so have I denounced those of our day. Just think of the idea that I should renounce every vestige of my manhood and sign that confession that was prepared for me—no I would rather have my right hand cut off than have it commit that offense. He read a leader from the "News" of the 7th of Aug. last, and testified that he had been subjected to all the misstreatment, the existence of which the mentioned article denied.

He referred to the object of a prominent leader's visit as an insult to his character and was glad that he had met the offer with a "Get thee hence." Referred to Orson Smith, who he said had excommunicated Nordberg, as an absconded thief, who had come back and been forgiven by the Priesthood, but those that he injured had not forgiven him. Referring again clearly to some Scandinavian, he said he is using his influence over the Church leaders to their curse, and especially President Cannon has been, he said, under his influence for a good many years. The brethren of the High Council, Rydman said, confessed they did not understand the case, but still they decided against him. And President Cannon, he said, compared the Swedes unto swine.

A delegation to wait upon the First Presidency was chosen. The members are: K. H. Nordberg, M. Samuelson, and Edvin Hedman.

Mr. K. H. Nordberg thanked for the trust they had placed in him and promised efficient service.

*VOTE THE REPUBLICAN TICKET. *Advt.

Vote for Thomas Alston for Recorder.—Adv't.

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MAILS DELAYED FOR MONTHS PAST

Business Men Are Getting Stirred Up Over Situation.

SOMETIMES ARE A DAY LATE

Neither of Roads from East Are Living Up to Their Contract With The Government.

For weeks past there has been considerable indignation among the business men of Salt Lake over the arrival, or perhaps to be more correct, the non arrival, of the mails. Day after day for three or four months past have trains been marked up late, until with no outlook for cessation the local merchants are seriously considering the proposition of petitioning the postmaster general for relief.

Postmaster Thomas when seen this morning stated that he had no remedy and could do nothing in the matter further than distribute the mail as fast as it arrived. Upon looking up the record Mr. Thomas stated that this week was a fair sample of conditions prevailing for months past. During the past week the average time of the arrival of the Union Pacific mail from the east was 3:39 p. m. in place of 8:20 a. m., while the train due here at 3:30 p. m. averaged 9:30 p. m. For the business man who leaves his desk early in the afternoon it would mean that the mails were a day late. On the Rio Grande a slightly better condition of affairs prevailed, trains during the past week from the east have on three occasions been on time, although today the mail on the train that should have arrived at 10:50 p. m., yesterday, had not been heard from at the same hour this morning.

The business men of the Wyoming cities are entering a vigorous protest at the delay which is occasioning them losses. The matter is to be carried to headquarters in Washington with a petition that the system of heavy fines for delayed mails be put into effect as an incentive to the transportation companies to gird up their loins and deliver goods on schedule time. The reason for the delays is attributed to the strike, and one gentlemen was this morning the authority for the statement that last week the limited started out of Omaha with a switch engine as the motive power. On the other hand the Rio Grande Western is doing such an immense business that that road is in a chronic case of congestion. This morning, for instance, there were two special trains from the east bearing 354 passengers in addition to the regular trains, which were also loaded.

Rock Island Cut-off.

Never in the history of the world has such progress been made in every avenue of industry as in the last decade. With the settlement and development of the great west, the volume of traffic between the Atlantic and Pacific has increased to such great proportions that the existing railways have at times been unable to handle it. Additions and improvements have been made by many of the railways, but still the requirements are not satisfied. The Rock Island system, whose aggressive policy has brought to the front rank of prominence among the transcontinental roads, determined some time since to increase its efficiency by the construction of a new line between Kansas City and St. Louis, and the work is now rapidly reaching completion. The surveys have all been made, and more than 100 miles of the St. Louis line is now in operation from St. Louis. It will be one of the most important feeders of the Rock Island system, which now covers an area of nearly 2,000,000 square miles, and is more than 8,000 miles in extent.

In the construction of the St. Louis line, which, when completed, will be one of the shortest between the points mentioned, the grades will be kept down to a minimum, curves eliminated wherever possible, heavy rails used exclusively, and every precaution taken in the construction of its roadbed to have it substantial and permanent, so that the fast time which will necessarily be made will carry with it no discomfort to the traveling public. No expense which will tend to the perfection of this line will be spared, and that it will be from its opening the popular line between Kansas City and St. Louis is assured.

The fact that St. Louis has been selected for the world's fair in 1904, which will excel in magnitude anything of the kind ever before attempted, has particular significance in connection with the St. Louis line. As has been stated through dispatches published in the newspapers at various times, the Rock Island has secured very valuable terminal facilities in St. Louis. A large tract of land adjoining the world's fair grounds has become the property of the Rock Island system, and will be used for tracks and depot. This will give to the Rock Island a direct entrance to the fair grounds, and will permit passengers from the west as well as from other sections to enter the grounds without changing cars. The road will be completed edrly in 1903.

SPIKE AND RAIL.

Col. C. D. Moore of the San Pedro engineering force has gone east.

The Rio Grande Western new fast freight was put on Saturday as previously announced.

Hiram Runn, traveling passenger agent for the Oregon Short Line, this morning returned from his trip east.

Circulars were received this morning announcing the appointment of C. S. Williams as commercial agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul to succeed L. L. Downing.

William D. McKellar, recently contracting agent for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern, arrived in Salt Lake this morning to enter into his new duties as contracting agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, vice C. S. Williams promoted.

Sam J. Henry, Traffic manager of the Colorado Springs & Cripple Creek District railroad, and formerly general freight agent of the Rio Grande Western, arrived from the Springs this morning and is today busily engaged in shaking hands with old friends.

L. L. Downing and Traveling Freight Agent Kyes of the Milwaukee are in Leadville loading the Robert Noble clip.

Acting Traffic Manager T. M. Schumacher of the Oregon Short Line is expected to return from Chicago tomorrow.

Ticket Agent W. A. Larkin of Butte was discharged from the hospital here this morning after undergoing an operation for appendicitis. He will return home on this evening's train.

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